

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

S E C R E T STATE 223436

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:SREF, PDIP, LA, US

SUBJECT: LAO DIPLOMAT NOUDENG NAKHAVANIT

REF: STATE 163691

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1. FIRST SECRETARY OF LAO EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON NOUDENG NAKHAVANIT CALLED ON LAO DESK OFFICER SEPTEMBER 9 TO INFORM DESK THAT HE INTENDS TO SEEK REFUGEE STATUS IN U.S. NOUDENG NOTED THAT HIS WIFE SOUTHSAVY NAKHAVANIT (NEE VILAY) HAD ALREADY SOUGHT REFUGEE STATUS IN THE U.S. AND IS NOW LIVING IN VIRGINIA WITH THEIR TWO CHILDREN (REFTEL). NOUDENG STATED THAT HIS WIFE'S "DEFECTION" HAD BEEN REPORTED TO THE LAO FOREIGN MINISTRY AND THAT HE BELIEVES THE LAO GOVERNMENT WILL ATTEMPT TO RECALL HIM AND SEND HIM TO A FORCED LABOR CAMP BECAUSE OF HIS WIFE AND OTHER FAMILY CONNECTIONS. NOUDENG WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE DID NOT IN ANY CASE WANT TO LIVE IN LAOS UNDER NEW REGIME.

2. DESK OFFICER THANKED NOUDENG FOR ALERTING DESK TO HIS
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INTENTIONS AND EXPLAINED THAT NOUDENG SHOULD APPROACH INS IN

WASHINGTON ABOUT REFUGEE STATUS IF HE HAD MADE UP HIS MIND. NOUDENG INDICATED THAT HE WOULD PROBABLY WAIT A WEEK OR SO TO PUT HIS AFFAIRS IN ORDER BEFORE INFORMING THE LAO CHARGE IN WASHINGTON AND THE INS OF HIS INTENTIONS.

3. NOUDENG'S DEPARTURE WILL BRING LAO EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON DOWN TO ONE OFFICER, SOMPHONG VANITSAVETH, PLUS A DRIVER, NOI MINGSISOUPHANH. NOUDENG SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT LAO MFA PLANNED TO DO ABOUT STAFFING LAO EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, BUT EXPECTED THAT NEW OFFICER OR OFFICERS WOULD BE SENT.

KISSINGER

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